

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 23, 2001 LB 83, 451

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes, just quickly. I think this is a good step for the state to take and to have a way to make sure that we're doing the right thing for the kids, the right thing for their families, but also for the counties. This is one of those bills that, as Senator Wehrbein points out and we all look at, it has a fiscal impact to the state. But in the county, such as my county and Lancaster County, when...when this objective criteria is used to look at the situation, they also have an override if they feel that they need to have some other type of detention for another purpose to help, because they can't find anyone to release them to or because they have some special needs, we...we can get to a point where we are not locking kids up without the...for the...not the reasons that in statute we should be, and also saving the counties the cost of secure detention, which is expensive. Now, I used to be a county commissioner so I'd probably argue for that if I were still trying to manage that budget but, for me, this has to go...goes to a system issue, a way to improve the decision making. This isn't the only point that needs decision-making improvement, but this is one we can put in place this year, this session. There are other places within the process where other types of screening instruments and assessment instruments can be used. This is the first point in the process and I think it's a good step in terms of public policy and I urge you to advance the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. The question before the body is, shall LB 451 be advanced to E & R Initial? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the advancement of LB 451. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 451 does advance. Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 83 was introduced by Senator Brashear. (Read title.) Bill was read for the first